Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 23 Number 9 *October 2006*

Friends of Kairos 2006

by The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, pastor, University in Seattle

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More than 40 people gathered at University Lutheran in Seattle on August 6 to discuss the *Kairos 2006* document developed primarily by members of the Northwest Washington Synod. The materials have also been distributed to interested parties in the ELCA, as well as the Lutheran World Federation. Participants at the gathering included people not only from our Synod, but also from Port Angeles and Leavenworth. In their excitement to be with people of similar passions and concern, participants expressed a desire for their congregations to be more of a place for open discussion about our current domestic and foreign policies as a nation. In this critical time, the church also could use more pastors who are willing to speak out on issues that are addressed in these *Kairos* materials.

Many suggestions were made as to how this document could be more visible within congregations and more available to the public. One of the next steps will be to invite our ecumenical partners to consider the *Kairos 2006* document for discussion and adoption. Participants were asked to sign up for any of the various responsibilities that were presented at the gathering: congregational outreach, national launch of the document,

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Friends of Karios 2006

communication about the document, discussion of the theological foundation for the document, formation of communities of support, and overall coordination of the Kairos process. If you are interested in serving on the coordination team or in any of these other capacities, you can contact the office of Lutheran Peace Fellowship at 206-720-0313. The document can be found at http://Kairos2006.tripod.com.

Check it Out

Have you checked out the Synod's website lately? Take a look. We are constantly updating the site. Take a look at the Photo Gallery where you will find photos of congregational and synod events. If you have photos that you would like the Communicatoin Committee to consider, please send them to margit@lutheransnw.org. Thanks so much.

Soundings *is published monthly (with one combined issue June/July) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
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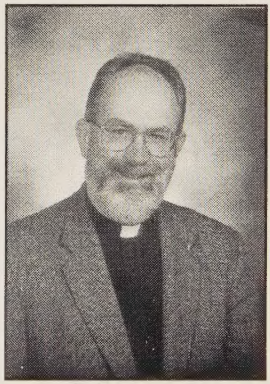
Deadline for the November 2006 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Monday, October 2. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Bishop



The Reverend
Chris Boerger

A verse of scripture normally sets the tone for the beginning of this column. That is not the case this month. It is not because we are ignoring the Bible, but it is because this is a purely institutional reflection. God is in our institutions, but I cannot make the case that God is the motivation for our constitutional processes. These are human creations that hopefully insure that we are doing our work in good order.

Several times in the past year, this office has been asked what to do when a congregation's practice is discovered to be outside the written constitution of the congregation. It is also common, when a congregation is preparing to vote on a controversial issue, that who is eligible to vote is questioned.

Constitutions and membership lists are not the substance of the gospel. They are still important to our life together. We write our rules of conduct when we are not in conflict so that we have them when our sinful natures lead us into conflict. It is rarely possible to write the rules when we are in conflict.

Most of our constitutions give the responsibility for maintaining the list of voting members to the council of the congregation. I would like to encourage councils to be vigilant in this effort. Prayerfully it will never be needed in times of crisis, but if the list is not current, it becomes another topic for argument.

DeDe reminds me that I am not normal with my interest in and experience with constitutions. That is true. It is also true that there are others in most of our congregations who share my interest in clear language in our governing documents. The Office of the Secretary of the ELCA has the model constitution for congregations available on that website, www.elca.org/secretary/constitutions/congregations/index.html. I encourage you to review your documents regularly. I am sure that there are those in the congregation willing to do this work if asked.

Constitutions and membership lists are not the purpose for or the primary work of the congregation. They are necessary parts of our life together. I have been surprised by the number of times the lack of attention to matching our preferred way of working with our constitutional way of working is inconsistent. When troubles come, it is our constitutions that describe how we will work together.

I encourage you to make sure that these documents do say what you want them to say about your life together in this institution called the congregation.

State Advocate's Corner

by The Rev. Paul Benz

206-464-4133
pbenz@lcsnw.org
www.lppowa.org

It's election time. Can you tell by all the ads, campaign mailers and *robo* calls. Democracy at work – right! We urge everyone to be well informed about the 2007 election issues/candidates. We urge churches to sponsor with others candidate's forums, educational forums on the initiatives and voter registration tables. The deadline to be registered for the Nov. 7th election is 30 days before the election (Oct.7).

The Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) Council has taken a position on the three statewide initiatives. We also have a bulletin insert available for congregational use. Please let us know if you would like to receive it. The full text of LPPO's position on the initiatives is posted on our website at www.lppowa.org. Here is a summary of our position statement:

- **I-920**—If passed, this initiative would repeal our state's laws imposing a tax on the transfer of Washington estates of a deceased person, which have a taxable value of more than $2 million. The revenues from this tax ($200 million annually) are currently deposited in the education legacy trust fund of the state. The ELCA social statement on economic life calls for "correction of regressive tax systems, so that people are taxed progressively in relation to their ability to pay. Government is intended to serve God's purposes. Paying taxes to enable government to carry out these and other purposes are an appropriate expression of our stewardship in society, rather than something to be avoided." The council's position is to oppose. Pro and con websites: www.yeson920.com and www.washingtondefense.org.
- **I-933**—If passed this initiative would require state and local government to exempt certain property owners from any land use, zoning or environmental law adopted or changed since 1995, unless government pays the property owner for complying with the law. The ELCA social statement on economic life states that "human need and the right to ownership often are in tension with each other . . . we are called to be stewards of what God has given for the sake of all . . . private property is affirmed insofar as it serves as a useful, yet imperfect means to meet the basic needs of individuals, households, and communities." The council's position is to oppose this initiative because there are concerns about the potential loss of revenue which could be used for public services, damage to the efficacy of environmental regulations, the resulting increase in development, and the loopholes this initiative would create for special interests. Pro and con websites: www.propertyfairness.com and www.NOon933.org.

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Reaching People and Communities

In Our Postmodern World

Join us for this Northwest LifeShapes Conference Friday, Nov. 3, and Saturday, Nov. 4, at Sammamish Hills, 22818 SE Eighth St, Sammamish. On Friday registration begins at 5 p.m.; conference from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday's event is from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. Registration fee is $75, which covers materials, snacks and Saturday dinner. Registration deadline is Monday, Oct. 30.

Keynote speaker is Mike Breen. As rector and team leader of St. Thomas' Church in Sheffield, Mike led this Anglican and Baptist church as it grew to the largest church in the north of England with 2,000+ members, 80 percent of whom are under age 40. Breen is currently helping Church of Joy (Phoenix) and the Fuller Seminary. He is also actively engaged in global ministry through The Order of Mission.

For more information, go to www.shlc.org, or contact April Fink at 425-392-7799 or email to hospitality@shlc.org for the conference flyer.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

The New ELCA Book of Worship

To introduce the new ELCA book of worship and a future of renewing worship, four workshops will be held in our synod this fall. These workshops are for pastors, musicians, lay worship leaders, worship planners and anyone else who has a interest in the new hymnal.

- Sunday, Oct. 29; 2 to 7:30 p.m; Trinity Lutheran, 6215 196th Street SW, Lynnwood.
- Saturday, Nov. 4; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Salem Lutheran, 2529 North Laventure Road, Mount Vernon.
- Saturday, Nov. 11; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Phinney Ridge Lutheran, 7500 Greenwood Ave North, Seattle.
- Sunday, Nov. 12; 2 to 7:30 p.m.; Saint Matthew Lutheran, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, Renton.

Cost is $25 per person and includes a copy of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and lunch/dinner. Registration is required. To register please visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on Calendar.

The new worship resource, scheduled for release in early October, contains ten musical settings of Holy Communion, 15 new additional services, propers for the church year, all 150 psalms, an inclusive hymnody section featuring more than 700 hymns and songs, Luther's *Small Catechism* and complete indices. For more information about Renewing Worship please visit www.renewingworship.org. Pre-orders are being taken by Augsburg Fortress. To pre-order please visit www.augsburgfortress.org or call 1-800-328-4648.

Life Based Financial Planning

Looking at your values, dreams and calling

Life Values. Family Values. How do they impact your decisions, including your financial decisions?

Join other couples from the Northwest Washington Synod from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11 (breakfast and lunch provided), at Ste. Michelle Winery, Woodinville

The focus of this workshop is for couples to explore and connect with values important to them, their life and their family. This will aid them in the decisions they make, including financial decisions. Values include, but not limited to work, marriage, health, spiritual, friendships, leisure, travel and love. Participants will be given materials to use when they return to their congregations to continue this conversation.

The presenter, John Busacker, is a highly regarded, inspiring presenter and facilitator who lived and worked in the northwest prior to moving to the Minneapolis area.This day is being underwritten by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and is a gift to the synod. There is no cost to attendees.

For more information, or to reserve a spot, please contact Larry Johnson at 425-226-6629 or johnson@lutheransnw.org

Building Wells in Morogoro

You are invited to an auction at Lord of Life Lutheran Church to benefit the Maasai in Tanzania. Money raised will build life-saving wells in the Morogoro area of Central Tanzania.

The auction begins at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Lord of Life, 12819 160th Ave. S.E. , Renton. Cost is $5 and dessert and beverages will be provided as well as entertainment and a brief slide show about the congregation's African trip in 2005. There will be silent and live auctions with items of all prices, including many from the Maasai and Africa.

Lord of Life, as well as Trinity Lutheran College and other congregations, have strong and enduring relationships of Christian brotherhood with the Maasai in central Tanzania through acting Bishop Jacob Mameo Moreto of the Morogoro Diocese. Bishop Mameo, a graduate of Trinity, regularly prayed and visited with area congregations when he was a Trinity student

His village of Kambala is Lord of Life's sister congregation. A team of 13 spent time working side by side with the Maasai building a kindergarten and friendships that reach across the oceans. It is hoped another team can be sent to Tanzania in 2007 which will also include a trip to the Maasae Girls' School in Monduli. For more information about the auction or about the trip please contact Dianne Johnson at 425-226-2871 or visit www.lolc.org.

Supporting El Camino de Emaus

Please join us for a lively evening of food, fellowship and fundraising for the El Camino de Emaus Benefit Auction and 21st Annual Bethlehem Lutheran Church Auction on Sunday, Oct. 8, at Bethlehem, 1006 Wicker Road, Sedro-Woolley. The festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and a dessert buffet. The silent and live auction will follow. Some items on the auction block: basket of beauty items; handmade quilts, table runners and other sewn items; theater tickets; dinners; a day at Big Lake; and a progressive dinner.

El Camino de Emaus, a synodically recognized worshiping community in the Northwest Washington Synod, ministers among the Latino community of Skagit County. Auction proceeds this year will be divided between a local project helping El Camino de Emaus; an international project in Tijuana, Mexico; and a church renovation project.

For more information please contact Pastor Walter Rice, Bethlehem Lutheran at 360.856.6181 or blc.sw@verizon.net.

An Evening With Rick Steves

Rick Steves will host a benefit for Lutheran Peace Fellowship on Sunday, Oct. 8, at Bethel in Shoreline. A reception begins at 6 p.m. with the evening's festivities beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 in advance ($20 at door); $8 Students and Limited Income; $50 event and reception with Rick at 6 p.m. Visit www.lutheranpeace.org for ticket sales and more information. Or, call Lutheran Peace Fellowship at 206- 720-0313, email at lpf@ecunet.org.

LMS Auction

Come enjoy the fun auction with items of all shapes, sizes, services and values will be auctioned off to benefit Lutheran Ministry Services (LMS) Northwest on Saturday, Nov. 4.

LMS will host this auction with a dinner and a no host bar, along with live music and a guest auctioneer. The evening will include a silent and live auction with plenty of opportunities to win excellent merchandise at a fraction of their original cost.

This year's auction will be held at the newly constructed Community Center at Mercer View, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island.

All are welcome, so invite your friends and family for an evening full of fun and fellowship. Please register as soon as possible as space is limited to 200 people.

For 68 years, LMS Northwest has provided pastoral and spiritual care to Northwest area hospitals, nursing homes, jails, prisons and veteran homes. For more information visit www.lmsnw.org.

Our Calling in Education

First Draft of a Social Statement

A hearing on the ELCA's first draft of a social statement on *Our Calling in Education* will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 23, in the Paradise Room at Trinity Lutheran College, 4221 228th Ave SE, Issaquah.

Work on the social statement began in 2003. The 2007 Churchwide Assembly will consider the proposed social statement. You are invited to help shape the social statement. How can we make this social statement better? Clearer? What should be changed? What's missing that should be said? This is the place to come to learn about its development and a place where you can participate.

What is the social statement about?

- Why the Lutheran Church cares about education.
- What faith will our children have? Forming the faith of people in homes congregations, and their schools throughout our lives.
- Will all youth have access to quality education? Moving toward equitable access to quality education in public schools.
- Will Our Church Have Schools and Colleges? Will our Schools and Colleges Have a Church?
- Will Public Higher Education Serve the Common Good?

How You Can Participate in the Hearing:

- Read a copy of the draft statement. (Also available in Spanish.)
- Call for a complementary single copy at 773-380-2996, or download a copy at www.elca.org/socialstatements/education.
- Congregations can order copies from Augsburg Fortress at 1-800-328-4648 (Copies are 25 cents each, plus shipping & handling).
- Come to the hearing. Speak your mind and heart. (If you can't attend the hearing, you are still able to share your thoughts by participating on an on-line discussion, open until October 15, 2006; or by responding to the statement on-line. Visit www.elca.org/socialstatements/education.)

Come To The Water

The Northwest Washington Synod, in partnership with the Oregon Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, will hold a training event on Friday, Oct. 6 and Saturday, Oct. 7, in Portland to introduce the catechumenate to interested pastors and congregational teams. There is a nominal cost of $25 per person ($30 per person after September 30) plus housing and transportation. Please visit www.catechumenate.org/Oregon2006.pdf for a brochure and registration form. You may also contact Pastor Bev Piro at 206-783-2350 for more information.

Nominations and Election of a Bishop in 2007

by Mark J. Jackson, Bishop Election Task Force Member

Forms and other materials are available at www.lutheransnw.org

The Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA will elect a Bishop at the 2007 Synod Assembly, held June 1-3, to serve a six-year term beginning September 1, 2007. As the nomination period approaches, it is helpful to understand the role of the Bishop and consider who might best serve in the position.

Who Can Serve?

Any ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is eligible to be elected as Bishop. There are no further requirements or limitations. The nominee is not required to be rostered in the Northwest Washington Synod, nor reside within the synod's geographical boundaries. Accordingly, nominations can be received from a pool of more than 17,000 ordained pastors of the ELCA.

What Does the Bishop Do?

The ministry of the Bishop is carefully described in S8.10-8.15 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Northwest Washington Synod. As the synod's pastor, the Bishop is called to administer sacraments, preach, provide pastoral care, advise, ordain, advocate, interpret, and serve as the synodical ecumenical officer. The bishop also serves as the synod's chief executive and administrative officer, coordinating the ministries of the synod and supervising the leadership of other officers and staff. These duties take unique shape within the mission, goals, context, and structure of the Northwest Washington Synod.

Who Might Serve as Bishop?

In addition to a deep and abiding faith commitment, pastors who might serve as Bishop will need to have broad skills in pastoral care and preaching, administrative leadership, and the ability to lift up the vision for the synod and its ministry. Some people look for a nominee with demonstrated administrative skills. Others place a higher value on pastoral care and preaching. Still others may look for a sense of vision for the synod's ministry. The task of electing a bishop is best served when the nominating process produces several names, with individuals of varying skills and experiences, each of whom could serve well as Bishop.

To assist in determining who might best serve as Bishop, consider the following:

- What are the synod's priorities for ministry?
- What are the current and future challenges and opportunities to the synod?
- What are the priorities and emphases desired for leadership of our synod?

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Election of a Bishop

- What are the qualities, experiences, skills, and leadership styles that would best serve us?

A desire for open discussion on these topics grows out of a sense of responsibility and stewardship for the gifts of persons and for the synod's leadership needs. These are exciting times, as the election of the Bishop marks the beginning of a new or renewed partnership in the life of the synod's ministry!

Who Can Nominate?

Any member of a Northwest Washington Synod congregation may nominate a candidate. A nominator may only make one nomination. A person may not nominate himself or herself for the position. Nominators complete a Nomination Form, which only asks for the contact information for the nominee and an indication that the nominee is an ordained minister of the ELCA. Nominations will be accepted December 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007. (Nominations received prior to, or after, this period will not be considered.)

For More Information

Complete information on the nomination process (including requirements of nominators and Nomination Forms) is posted on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org. Questions can be directed to bishopelection@lutheransnw.org, or contact Larry Johnson, Synod Vice President, at (425) 226-6629, or Mary Beth Short, Task Force Chair, at (253) 854-4438.

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State Advocate's Corner

- **I-937**—If passed, this initiative would require Public Utility Districts (PUD) with over 25,000 customers to meet certain targets for energy conservation and use of renewable resources , or pay penalties. The target for PUD's is to increase their renewable resource supply to 15% by 2020. The ELCA social statement on economic life calls for "the development and use of more energy-efficient technologies." The source of this declaration is that we are "called to be stewards of God's creation" and "are to respect the integrity and limits of the earth and its resources." The council's position is to support this initiative. Pro and con websites: www.yeson937.org and www.awb.org.

As always the LPPO office is very willing to visit your congregation to lead or facilitate discussion on election issues, ELCA social statements, or any other social justice/policy issue of concern to the Church.

Editor's Note: *The ELCA has a new resource for congregations regarding what a congregation can and cannot do politically. Visit www.elca.org/advocacy/toolkit/index.html.*

Ecumenical News

Study Guide and Document

Full Communion Proposal with United Methodist Church

A proposal to establish full communion between the ELCA and the United Methodist Church, titled *Confessing Our Faith Together: Study and Discussion Guide*, is now available to congregations for review and study. In 2005 the two church bodies established a relationship of interim Eucharistic sharing which allows members of the one church to receive communion in the other church. The two churches are now working on issues relating to create full communion partnership, which would allow for the exchange of pastors and other forms of joint ministry.

The Guide is available on-line and can be downloaded at: www.elca.org/ecumenical/ecumenicaldialogue/unitedmethodist/confessing-faith-f_color.pdf. Printed copies can be obtained by contacting the ELCA's Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations at erinfo@elca.org.

Congregations are encouraged to study the proposal and provide feedback to the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations over the next several months.

Building Bridges in the Body of Christ

A new resource series is available to ELCA congregations regarding our five communion partners and one interim eucharistic sharing partner. The set of seven bulletin inserts provides information on each of the church bodies. The series, produced by the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, is available in both color or black-and-white formats and is free-of-charge.

You can access and download any or all of the bulletin inserts available in the series at: www.elca.org/ecumenical/building_bridges.html.

The series includes the following:

- What is Full Communion?
- Moravian Church (established in 1999)
- Episcopal Church (established in 1999)
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (established in 1997)
- Reformed Church in America (established in 1997)
- United Church of Christ (established in 1997)
- The United Methodist Church (interim eucharistic sharing)

Our Sister Synod in Ethiopia

Michelle Brekhus and Brenda Mendez, Our Saviour's in Stanwood; and Rev. Dick Grinstad, Burlington in Burlington have been blessed to have visited our companion synod in Africa, the North Central Ethiopian Synod Mekane Yesus, as well as the Haik Orphanage. Pastor Dick Grinstad was inspired by the tenatious faith of the people, and Brenda's and Michelle's hearts were won over by the children at the orphanage.

Inspired by their photos Roxanne Grinstad, Pastor Dick Grinstad's wife, and Michelle created a Scriptural picture book. Each page has Scripture in English and Amharic (Ethiopian language) and a short picture description. The book includes information about the Northwest Washington Synod's involvement with the North Central Ethiopian Synod such as raising money for church buildings and the Haik Orphanage. The book is an outgrowth to help and encourage our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia. And, that it is also a good way to foster understanding and build relationships between our sister synods.

Special thanks go to Belay Sisay for the Amharic translation and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their help in funding the printing of this book and others. If you would like to order a copy of the book, please contact Michelle Brekhus at mbrekhus@hotmail.com.

Youth and Family Ministry

Mission: Possible

NW WOLY High School Youth Gathering
Mission: Possible
Friday, Nov. 3 - Sunday, Nov. 5
Camp Warm Beach - Stanwood
$120 if postmarked by Sept. 30; 130 if postmarked after Sept. 30

Registration closes when full or October 16 - whichever comes first

This event is open to all high school students in the NW WA Synod, we hope you will join us for this great weekend of fellowship, growth, and fun. Elsewhere will be our band for the weekend, check them out at www.elsewhereworship.org.

We'll have a speaker, workshops, nightlife, mystery event, free time, camp activities (additional cost and by sign-up), worship, and delicious meals.

If you haven't received a CD in the mail with all of the registration details and info., please contact Jennifer Schultz at 360-420-2260 or schultz_jm@msn.com

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † **Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita**
- † **Rev. Cindy Salo**
- † **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)**
- † **Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**

We pray for:

† **The Rev. Emerson Vedell (ret.)** recently underwent a series of tests and procedures. Emerson and his wife, Marion, are members at Advent, Mill Creek.

† **The Rev. Chris Boerger, Bishop, and his wife DeDe.** DeDe's mother, Mary Finlayson, is being treated in a Tacoma hospital for a skull fracture and some internal bleeding.

† **Darin Richards, son of Rev. Jack Richards,** Bethlehem in Marysville. Darin was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer; he is a student at Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah. Please keep Darin, Jack and Joneen in your prayers.

† **Rev. John Olson (ret.)** says that he is half-way through his chemo therapy and a cat scan shows that his tumor is stable. Cards may be sent to: John Olson, 612 Wanapum Dr, La Conner, WA 98257

† **Dorothy and The Rev. Stuart Lundahl (ret.)** traveled to Chicago to be with family. Dorothy's mother, Karin Lindmark, died at age 104. Cards may be sent to: Dorothy Lundahl, 325 N 138th St Seattle, WA 98133.

† **The Rev. Lowell Stordahl (ret.) and his wife, Byrde.** Rev. Stordahl's mother passed away on September 12. She was 104 years old. Her funeral will be in Conrad, Montana. Cards may be sent to 63 E Conley Drive, Camano Island, WA 98282.

† **The Rev. Pam Russell, Prince of Peace in Shoreline, and her husband Gary Sievert.** Gary's step-father, Ralph Brasen, died of cancer in August. He was 87 years old. A memorial service was held at Mt. St. Vincent Nursing Home, West Seattle. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, www.alzfdn.org.

† **Bernt Semling, father of Estelle Morley, Associate in Ministry** at Luther Memorial in Seattle, died on September 5. Bernt was 99 years old and a member of Faith, Seattle. Cards may be sent to: Estelle Morley, 4316 Stoneridge Way #202, Lynnwood, WA 98037.

† We celebrate the installation of **The Rev. Andrew Yee**. He was installed at Bethany on Bainbridge Island on September 10.

† We pray for **St. Stephens in Shoreline** as the congregation closed on September 14. We thank the congregation for their years of faithful service.

Within Our Family depends upon you—not only for prayers, but also for your prayer requests. Contact the synod office with any additions or changes to this column at office@lutheransnw.org or 206-783-9292, toll free 1-800-244-6997. This newsletter is shared among many people. The synod tries to limit personal information on the prayer list. Please consider contacting those on this list to let them know that you are holding them in your prayers.

Video Resources

In The Resource Center

To reserve videos, contact Region 1 at 206-624-0093, ext. 100

God Is Closer Than You Think with John Ortberg (D-54)

The Bible is filled with examples of a God keenly interested in connecting with ordinary people. We know that God has promised to always be with us, but sometimes He seems so far away. Caught up in the hectic pace of our lives, hearing God speak can be difficult.

In six sessions this video curriculum teaches how to find God where you least expect Him, align yourself with the flow of the Holy Spirit, and draw closer to God even when He seems absent. The DVD and Participant's Guide provide questions for discussion and the sermon resources will help your whole congregation experience intimacy with a God who is closer than you think.

Sessions include: God's Great Desire for People; Where Is God in My World?; Partnering with God; Listening to the Voice of God; God Wants a Relationship with You; and Heaven Breaking Through.

This resource is recommended for those eighteen years and older.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Andrew Yee	Bethany, Bainbridge	8/15/2006
Celebrations		
100th Anniversary	Bethlehem, Seattle	10/22/2006
50th Anniversary	St. Andrew's, Bellevue	5/20/2006
50th Anniversary	Crown, Seattle	
50th Anniversary	St. Paul's of Shorewood, Seattle	
50th Anniversary	Christ the King, Snohomish	
50th Anniversary	Grace, Des Moines	
Closing		
St. Stephens, Shoreline	Congregation Closing	9/14/2006
Installations		
Andrew Yee	Bethany, Bainbridge	9/10/2006
Resignation		
Marj Funk-Pihl	First Richmond Beach, Shoreline	8/31/2006
Gretchen Cohan	First Richmond Beach, Shoreline	9/10/2006
Retirements		
J. B. Brandt	Zion, Everett	8/1/2006

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

(Transitions can be found on page 14.)

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Burien, Glendale	PR	I	Martha Myers, Interim
Custer, Zion	PR	P	Jay Decker, Interim
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	NV	Ed Markquart, John O'Neal, Stephanie Coltvet—Pastors
Edmonds, Edmonds	PR	TR	Katheryn Schlechter, and Dorcas Wang, Co-Interim Pastors
Everett, Faith	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Everett, Prince of Peace	PR	NV	Doug Stensby, Interim
Everett, Trinity	PR	NV	Chris Anderson, Interim
Everett, Zion	PR	NV	Supply
Kirkland, Holy Spirit	A	TR	Mike Anderson, Lead Pastor; Kathryn Buffum, Interim
Lynden, Hope	PR	TR	Jean Barrington, Interim
Maple Valley, Shepherd of the Valley	PR	TR	Elwood Carlson, Interim
Point Roberts, Trinity	PR	TR	Supply
Redmond, Faith	PR	TR	Paul Wuest, Interim
Renton, St. Matthew	A/SP	P	Kirby Unti, Lead Pastor
SeaTac, Prince of Peace	P	NV	Interim Pending; Conrad Tollefson, Pastor
Seattle, Calvary	PR	TR	Karen L. Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	P	Supply
Shoreline, First Richmond Beach	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Our Saviour's	PR	I	Mike Swain, Interim
Woodenville, Wooden Cross	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
5519 Phinney Avenue North
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October 2006

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